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Rulings of High Court's Term Reaffirm Church-State Barriers

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WASHINGTON, July 7 — The Supreme Court strongly reaffirmed its traditional insistence on the separation of church and state in the term that ended last week.

Following are summaries of some of the Court's most important rulings this year:

Federal Authority

The Court ruled that state and local governments are not immune from compliance with Federal wage and hour standards or, by extension, from most other forms of Federal regulation. (*Garcia v. San Antonio Metro*, No. 82-1913).

The Court ruled that Congress never authorized the Securities and Exchange Commission to block the publication of stock market newsletters on the basis of past misconduct by the newsletter's publisher (*Lowe v. S.E.C.*, No. 83-1911).

The Court upheld a position of the Federal Reserve Board, ruling in favor of regional banking zones. The decision, *Northeast Bancorp v. Board of Governors*, No. 84-363, was followed by a spate of interstate bank mergers.

The Court gave the Central Intelligence Agency increased discretion to withhold the identities of its sources of intelligence information from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (*C.I.A. v. Sims*, No. 83-1075).

The Court ruled that the decision by a Federal agency not to take a particular enforcement action is generally beyond the scrutiny of the courts. The decision, *Heckler v. Chaney*, No. 83-1878, backed the Food and Drug Administration's refusal to investigate the lethal drugs used for executions.
